

Warden Message
US Embassy Praia
August 14, 2009

This Warden Message alerts U.S. citizens to the latest information regarding human cases of 2009-H1N1 influenza, sometimes referred to as swine flu or novel H1N1. The Cape Verdean Ministry of Health has reported a total of 23 confirmed cases of 2009-H1N1 influenza, including 10 new confirmed cases since August 7, 2009. Of these cases, 18 are from Praia, 3 from Santa Catarina, 1 from São Vicente, and 1 from Boa Vista. To date, local authorities have not taken any restrictive action regarding travel to or within Cape Verde. The Ministry of Health is creating an emergency flu hotline that will be staffed by a doctor 24 hours a day and which the public may reach by calling 115. This number is expected to be operational as soon as possible.

American citizens should be aware that the US Embassy in Praia cannot demand their immediate release if they have been detained or quarantined in accordance with local public health and legal authorities.

Any questions or concerns about influenza or other illnesses should be directed to a medical professional. Although the US Embassy in Praia cannot provide medical advice or provide medical services to the public, a list of hospitals and doctors can be found on our website at http://praia.usembassy.gov/med_information.html.

For more information on U.S. Government policy during a pandemic, and for travel safety information, please see the State Department's "Pandemic/Avian Influenza" and "Remain in Country" fact sheets on www.travel.state.gov. Further information about 2009-H1N1 Influenza, including steps you can take to stay healthy, can be found at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control website at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>, the U.S. Government's federal influenza website at <http://www.flu.gov/>, and the World Health Organization website at <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>.

U.S. citizens may also call the Office of Overseas Citizens Services in the United States for the latest travel information. The Office of Overseas Citizens Services can be reached from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, Monday through Friday, by calling 1-888-407-4747 from within the U.S. and Canada, or by calling (202) 501-4444 from other countries.

Americans living or traveling in Cape Verde are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the State Department's travel registration website, <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/> so that they can obtain updated information on travel and security within Cape Verde. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. The U.S. Embassy is located at Rua Abilio Macedo 6, Praia, Cape Verde (tel: 238-260-8900 or 238-260-8948; fax: 238-261-1355; emergency after-hours: 238-991-3325; e-mail: PraiaConsular@state.gov; and website: <http://praia.usembassy.gov>).